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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 513

November 5, 1943

LATIN AMERICA TO SUPPLY MORE COCOA. The United States uses more than \$32,000,000 worth of cocoa each year as a nutritive beverage and confection. Formerly great quantities were purchased from Africa and the East Indies. At present, in Costa Rica, Panama, and other Middle American countries experiments in cultivating and processing are under way to reestablish that region as one of the world's leading producers of cocoa. Reports from Rio de Janeiro state that Bahia cocoa planters have petitioned the Government to increase the cash advance, payable by the Bahia Cocoa Institute against delivery of the current crop, from 12 to 20 cruzeiros per 15 kilos (an increase of about 2 to 3 cents per pound -- cruzeiro equals \$.051275 U.S. money), on the ground that the present sum barely covers the cost of production and treatment of the cocoa. Although the volume of cocoa export from Brazil was considerably reduced in 1942 over 1941, the value declined only 31 percent, because of the increase in value. Of Brazil's exported cocoa about 72 percent comes to the United States, Argentina receives 10 percent, and Sweden 10 percent. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BAG SHORTAGE HAMPERS CROP STORAGE IN ARGENTINA. Unless there are increased imports of jute for bagging, transportation and storage of the anticipated large crops in Argentina will be difficult. Large sums are being spent to erect grain elevators and silos. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA'S WOOL EXPORTS DECREASE. For the wool year beginning October 1, 1942, exports of wool from Argentina totaled 163,637 bales, compared with 247,830 bales the preceding year. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL'S PYRETHRUM CROP TO COME TO UNITED STATES. During the past week an agreement has been signed providing for the sale to the United States of the entire Brazilian crop of pyrethrum flowers until December 31, 1945. From this crop comes the drug which has proved valuable in the preparation of insecticides issued to the armed forces for protection against bearers of malaria, yellow fever, typhus, and cholera. (Washington Post)

BRAZILIAN COMMISSION TO CONTROL FRUIT TRADE. A commission to control fruit production and trade in Brazil has been created to operate in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. Among the duties of the commission are the formulation of plans for enlargement of the national fruit industry beginning with citrus fruits, controlling production and supply, regulating transportation, constructing warehouses, and organizing cooperatives. (New York Journal of Commerce)

COSTA RICA HAS NEW FLOUR MILL. The only flour mill in Costa Rica was recently placed in operation for grinding hard spring wheat that was imported from the United States. The chief incentive for the establishment of the mill was the production of bran for the livestock industry. (Export Trade and Shipper)

CUBA HAS GOOD PEANUT CROP. Favorable prices and a Government-sponsored program resulted in a 1943 crop for Cuba of 115,000,000 pounds of unshelled peanuts as against 42,000,000 pounds the year previous. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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CHILE TO HAVE NEW MARINE INDUSTRY. A new project is under way for the development of a marine industry for Chile. The program looks toward a cooperative arrangement between Chile and the United States for the production of fish oils, fertilizers, and possibly feedstuffs for animal consumption. The coast of Chile is said to yield in great numbers practically every type of fish known to man. Several drug companies have already sent representatives to investigate the possibilities of such an industry. Through the rapid mechanization of Chile's nitrate and copper industries, some 20,000 fewer families will be needed in those industries. While much of the development will necessarily be post-war, C. C. Concannon, who is being sent to Chile by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, pointed out that a great deal of equipment, such as vessels and small craft, can be constructed in Chile, and a good beginning in the industry made within a year. (New York Journal of Commerce)

GUATEMALA CONTINUES WORK ON PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY. Continuation of work on the Guatemalan section of the Pan American Highway has been ordered by President Ubico. Construction by United States engineers was suspended recently when the work was no longer considered of an emergency character. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO BUILDING UP SUGAR RESERVES. Mexico will fix the sugar-reserve level at 80,000 tons as soon as domestic production will permit or whenever necessary to ensure adequate control of the domestic sugar market. In order to accomplish this, a new program to intensify the production of sugar is under way. The export prohibition on sirups and other sugar products will be continued until the new reserve can be built up. Exceptions will be made only when it can be proved that the sugar products for export were manufactured from sugar specifically imported for that purpose. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO TO DEVELOP HARBORS AND RIVERS. The Mexican Government is undertaking a longer-range development of its harbors and rivers. The plan is being inaugurated with the dredging of the Papaloapan River, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico. (New York Journal of Commerce)

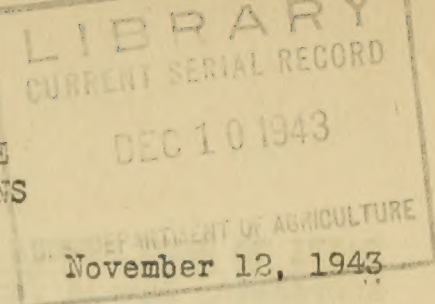
NEW ESTIMATE OF PUERTO RICAN COTTON PLANTING LOWER. Preparation of the land for the planting of Sea Island cotton has already begun on the southern coast of Puerto Rico. Some time ago the Insular Department of Agriculture reported that 5,268 acres of cotton were being planted for the 1944 crop year. A recent estimate given by the Sea Island Cotton Co. is that about 4,000 acres are to be planted, representing a decline of 24 percent in comparison with the previous year. The decline is attributed to low prices, difficulties in the classifying of cotton, slow financing of small growers, and shortage of labor in some regions. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRITAIN CONCLUDES MEAT CONTRACTS WITH ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY. Acting for the United Nations as sole purchaser of South American meat and meat products, Great Britain has concluded contracts with Argentina and Uruguay for their exportable surplus. Offers have also been made to Brazil and Paraguay, and their acceptances are awaited. The contracts cover approximately a 2-year period ending September 30, 1944, and apply to all meats shipped since the expiration of former contracts. The prices agreed upon are somewhat higher than those paid under the previous contracts. (New York Journal of Commerce)



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234

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 514

MORE CINCHONA BARK NEEDED FROM LATIN AMERICA. Negotiations are now under way for additional imports into the United States of quinine-bearing cinchona bark from Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Plantations devoted to growing cultivated cinchona trees have been and are being developed. Experience is showing that the new synthetic quinine does not, in many cases, have the same medical reactions as the natural product. (New York Journal of Commerce)

LINSEED OIL MORE PLENTIFUL. Argentina's production of flaxseed last year of approximately 60,000,000 bushels promises to be equaled this year. There was a good carry-over, and sizable quantities have recently arrived in the United States. Paint manufacturers are reported to be consuming fully three-quarters of the allotted supplies. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL BANS EXPORTATION OF MEAT. In an effort to overcome shortages of food and rising costs of living, Brazil has placed a 6-month ban on exportation of meat from 4 central states and has placed meat packers under Government control. (Christian Science Monitor)

BRAZILIAN COFFEE EXPORTERS SUFFER FROM SHORTAGE OF SHIPS. As a result of shortage of ships Brazilian exporters are not able to ship their stocks of coffee. More coffee has been coming into the United States from Colombia because of its more advantageous geographic position. Under the original basic quota, Brazil was allowed to export to the United States 9,300,000 bags during the coffee year, compared to Colombia's 3,150,000 bags. From October 1942 to September 1943, according to latest government reports, Brazil exported 6,600,000 bags, and Colombia 4,200,000. Considerable loss of business has resulted for the former. The Commodity Credit Corporation has agreed to underwrite Brazil's entire crop for this coffee year, with the understanding that this Government will pay for whatever stocks are not lifted. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CUBAN MOLASSES SALE HINTED. A report, as yet unauthorized, has come from Cuba that a generally satisfactory agreement is about to be reached on the disposal of the 1944 Cuban blackstrap-molasses output. "It will be sold by mill owners to distillers at the equivalent price of raw sugar, it is said. Distillers will undertake to surrender one-half of their alcohol production to the Cuban OPA at the latter's fixed price of 34-1/2 c a gallon, but as a compensation they will be permitted freely to export the other half to the United States, thus making a profit which will offset the loss they are certain to incur in the sale of alcohol distilled from sugar-priced blackstrap. In turn, the Cuban OPA, instead of converting into motor fuel the alcohol surrendered by distillers, will ship it to the United States Government in return for low-octane gasoline, on which the Cuban Government will again be able to levy the usual sales tax. This formula, if adopted, apparently will meet with the wholehearted approval of all concerned...." (New York Journal of Commerce)

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HAITI TO GROW DERRIS ROOT FOR UNITED STATES. In an effort to meet the rapidly increasing demand for insecticides, plans have been worked out with the Haitian Government to plant 100,000 cuttings of derris, from which rotenone is derived. Cuttings will be distributed to farmers by the Haitian Agricultural Department. The entire crop will come to the United States for processing. This is the most recent development in the rotenone-production program in which other Latin American countries are cooperating. Approximately 300,000 cuttings have been planted in Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador; Ecuador is growing more than 1,000,000 cuttings. Cuttings will be flown to Colombia to see if derris production can be encouraged there. All rotenone now used in the United States is developed from imported roots. (New York Journal of Commerce)

HONDURAS BANANA CULTIVATION INCREASING. Many banana plantations are being rehabilitated on the north coast of Honduras, both by the United Fruit Company and by native planters. Many plantations were abandoned when the lack of transportation by sea became acute. Now that shipping conditions are expected to improve, the cultivation of bananas is being intensified almost to the point reached before the war. (New York Times)

MEXICAN ORANGES CROSSING UNITED STATES FOR CANADA. Mexican oranges have been barred from the United States because of the danger of the Mexican fruitfly. Carloads of the fruit are, however, being shipped across this country en route to Canada, in bond not to be used in the United States. It is a wartime measure, approved when Canada's needs evidently had exceeded the former import supplies. (Washington Evening Star)

DROUGHT DAMAGES MEXICAN CROPS. The wheat harvest in Mexico is expected to be 40 percent below the estimated 500,000-ton crop of last year, and about 260,000 tons may have to be imported. Drought has seriously affected Mexico's corn crop also. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO AGAIN EXPORTS CORN LIQUOR. Mexico has relaxed its ban against exportation across the border of liquors containing corn. (New York Times)

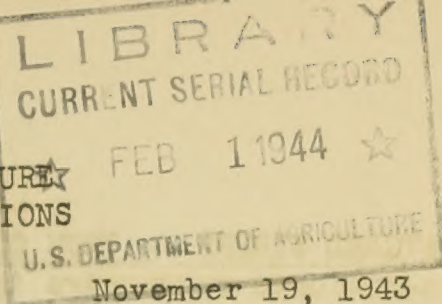
PERU CONTROLLING HIDES. As a measure to prevent speculation in purchases and sales of hides, a 5-man commission, composed of the fiscal price controller and 4 tannery representatives, has been created. Raw hides may be sold to the committee only. Import licenses are required, and these will be granted only when domestic supplies are insufficient for local needs, or to build up reserve stocks. Production of Peruvian hides and skins during the first 5 months of 1943 totaled 720,000 pieces. (New York Times)

PUERTO RICO'S NEXT SUGAR CROP TO BE LOWER. The 1943-44 sugar crop will be 19 percent lower than this year's, according to estimates by the Puerto Rico Sugar Producers Association. Inadequate amounts and late deliveries of fertilizer, acreage and new planting far below normal, and improper cultivation because of a lack of agricultural implements are given as the reasons for the decline. (Christian Science Monitor)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS



LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 515

November 19, 1943

THANKSGIVING TURKEYS RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINA. The first Argentine turkeys for Thanksgiving arrived on the New York market early this week in a shipment of 300,000 pounds of poultry. The part not consigned to the Commodity Credit Corporation was placed in trade distribution channels. (New York Times)

ARGENTINE WOOL SALES LARGE. Some 24,000 bales of wool have been sold in the Argentine but are, as of October 1, 1943, unshipped. Part of these wools have been bought by United States carpet weavers to be held in Buenos Aires until shipments can be made here for use in carpets. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CUBAN SOAP INDUSTRY HIT BY TALLOW SHORTAGE. Cuba's soap industry is threatened by a serious shortage of tallow. Normally the island requires nearly 40,000,000 pounds of soap fats and oils annually. Approximately 75 percent of this amount was imported. Prior to 1941, palm and coconut oils were utilized to a greater extent than tallow, but, as cattle slaughtering increased in Cuba, the Government decreed in 1941 that a specified percentage of the soap fats used should be tallow. Also in 1941, in a trade agreement with the Argentine Government, the Cuban Government agreed to promote the use of Argentine tallow. With the progress of the war, palm and coconut oils became scarce, and larger amounts of tallow were used, coming almost entirely from Argentina. Now, however, Argentine tallow has become increasingly difficult to obtain. Other Latin American countries have helped to exhaust supplies of that product. In July of this year the Argentine Government restricted the volume of tallow for export. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MOLASSES PARLEY MAY BE RESUMED WITH CUBA. Indications are that a Cuban mission will return to the United States during the next several weeks for negotiations on the purchase of molasses. The current feeling is that the Cuban mission would not return without some assurance that the talks would be more fruitful than the previous session. Predictions in some Washington quarters are that the Defense Supplies Corporation will offer 13.6c a gallon for 1944 Cuban molasses. The previous offer was 6c a gallon. The sugar mills expect to start grinding the first of January, and prompt termination of molasses negotiations is highly desirable. If the equivalent of 1,000,000 short tons of raw sugar (about 260,000,000 gallons) is to be produced in the form of high-test molasses, many mills will need first to manufacture the high-test, and ship about 200,000,000 gallons of it in the early 2 months of the season, in order to make room in their tanks for the 18,000,000 gallons of blackstrap, which must be stored for distillation during the remainder of the year. Forty large tank-steamers making a total of 160 voyages, at the rate of 4 or 5 each, would be needed to ship those 200,000,000 gallons of high-test in 2 months. The transaction rumored last week could not, apparently, be carried out because the United States Government would lack sufficient gasoline surpluses to furnish the low-octane gasoline to be used in exchange. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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FLAVORED SIRUPS -- FROM CUBA AND MEXICO. In response to an increasing demand for non-rationed sweeteners in the United States, Cuban sugar producers have been manufacturing flavored sirups and finding a market for them here. Sirups of 60 percent or 70 percent cane sugar solids, with flavoring, sell at prices from \$1 a gallon up, often on the basis of the sugar content, with the price of the sugar content quoted from 14 cents to 18 cents per pound. Importations, by United States producers, of sugar sirups for use in soft drinks have been large from Mexico also. Recently, however, the Mexican Government has curtailed the use of sugar in sirups for export. This policy is likely to continue until Mexico is able to import sugar in sufficient volume or until there is a surplus from the 1944 crop, which is expected to be the largest on record in that country. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CHILE TO PLANT EUCALYPTUS TREES. Chile plans to plant wide areas to eucalyptus trees. Richly wooded districts of eucalyptus would give employment to many people. (Washington Evening Star)

EQUADORAN COCOA CROP HIGH. The 1943 cocoa crop in Ecuador is expected to be the largest in recent years. Deliveries at the Port of Guayaquil during the first 9 months of this year have increased substantially over those during the corresponding period last year. (New York Journal of Commerce)

HONDURAS RESUMES ROAD WORK. Announcement is made that work is being resumed on the emergency military road between Honduras and El Salvador. The bridge over the Goascoran River, on the border, has been completed. (New York Times)

HONDURAS CONTRIBUTING STRATEGIC MATERIALS. Last month Honduras furnished approximately 30,334 pounds of rubber to the United States, bringing the total to 367,000 pounds since collecting started. Exports of tropical hardwoods, particularly guayacan and mahogany, are increasing, and more than 20,000 pounds of high-grade cotton were exported in October. (New York Times)

RICE BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT IN MEXICO. A Presidential decree, issued recently in Mexico, forbids exportation of rice under heavy penalties while there is a shortage of the grain in that country. The Government has just purchased the entire new crop of Morelos State for public distribution at official prices. In Sonora State, which has long been one of Mexico's leading "garbanzo" (chick pea) producers, rice is steadily taking the place of chick peas as the more profitable crop. (New York Journal of Commerce)

PERU PRODUCING ALL ITS OWN RUBBER. Only 2 years ago Peru was importing tires containing 950 tons of rubber. This year, Peru is producing approximately 1,000 tons of rubber, meeting all its own rubber needs. (Christian Science Monitor)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST\*

No. 516

November 26, 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ARGENTINA HAS LARGE GRAIN CROPS. The 1943 harvests in Argentina are showing substantial gains over those of 1942. Wheat production is estimated to be 2,100,000 tons greater than that of last year; oats will be quadrupled to 2,100,000 tons; linseed production will be 1,800,000 tons; barley, 880,000 tons; rye, 1,400,000; birdseed, 37,000. The present surplus of wheat, 3,680,098 tons, will, with the addition of the coming crop, exceed 12,000,000 tons. Additional granaries are being constructed to store the surplus, and, if new markets are not available, wheat will be used for fuel and cattle feed. (New York Times)

ARGENTINE COTTON CROP GOOD IN 1943. Ginning returns now indicate that the 1943 cotton crop in Argentina produced 493,500 bales of 478 pounds each, an all-time record. Last season's crop was 373,000 bales, and the average of the 5 preceding years was only 260,600 bales. Approximately 899,200 acres were planted to the 1943 crop, an increase of 18.2 percent over 1942. The yield as a whole is calculated at about 262.3 pounds per acre, an increase of 27.9 over that of 1942. Approximately 79 percent of the crop was produced in the Chaco territory. The average yield of fiber obtained in ginning operations in 1943 has been about 32.9 percent, compared with 27.4 percent as the average during the years 1933-37. (New York Journal of Commerce)

INTEREST IN SHIPMENTS OF COFFEE FROM BRAZIL. Increasing demands for high-grade coffee in the United States are centering interest on shipments from South America. The National Coffee Association here has urged upon the Coffee Department of Brazil that it take the most effective steps possible to assure a more rapid movement to the ports of Santos and Rio of high-grade coffees, particularly of the new crops. The tendency of some shippers in Brazil to offer coffee to the trade here at prices that would exceed the ceilings is causing some concern. The October estimate of stocks of coffee in the United States, 3,970,118 bags, is a decline of some 309,034 bags from the September supply. In both estimates the supplies held by the armed forces are excluded. Two steamers with Colombian coffee are reported to have arrived at United States ports, and one from Brazil, within the past week. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL TO HAVE SURPLUS OF VEGETABLE OILS. The estimated requirements of edible vegetable oils in Brazil for 1944 domestic consumption is 100,000 tons. Brazil is expected to produce that amount and have a surplus for export. The State of São Paulo alone is expected to produce about 80,000 tons of oils, and the cottonseed available in northern Brazil will probably yield from 20,000 to 30,000 tons of oil. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CHILE TO HAVE BEEF FROM ARGENTINA. The first shipment, under a new trade agreement, of more than 3,000 head of cattle is ready in Argentina to be sent to Chile as soon as freight cars and the necessary permits are secured. Argentina is ready also to send on her own ships wheat sufficient to satisfy Chile's needs, taking back iron and nitrates, if a free trade pact is worked out between the two countries. (New York Times)

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COSTA RICA FLIES VEGETABLES TO CANAL ZONE. Costa Rica is helping the United Nations in the war by supplying much of the fresh vegetables and fruit used in the Canal Zone. Sweet peppers, tomatoes, asparagus, oranges, bananas, and other vegetables and fruits that are grown in the country can be flown to the Canal area in 3 hours. A representative of the United States Department of Agriculture in San José supplies seeds and tools to all Costa Rican farmers who desire them. (New York Times)

EQUADOR HAS SURPLUS OF RICE. Ecuador has 50,000,000 pounds of rice in storage, with a new crop ready for harvest. Planters have petitioned the Government for permission to export part of the surplus. Growers say that the country can produce as much as 130,000,000 pounds for export next year compared to 80,000,000 this year. (New York Journal of Commerce)

HAITI HAS LARGE COFFEE CROP. Estimates of the 1943-44 coffee crop in Haiti and the carry-over from the 1942-43 season show an exportable surplus of 57,208,000 pounds for the 12 months ending September 1944. The quantity of coffee produced during this season was the largest since 1938-39, and the value was greater than that of any year since 1935-36. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO TO CONTROL EXPORTS OF EGGS. Eggs have been placed under export control in Mexico, and licenses for export will be issued only after the needs of the home market have been met. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN FARMERS TO COLLABORATE FOR GREATER PRODUCTION. The bad crops, caused by a drought early in the year and excessive rains later, have forced Mexico to import some 250,000 tons of wheat from the United States and Canada and have caused a shortage of vegetable oils, pork, lard, barley for malt, corn, and sugar. President Avila Camacho has called upon the farmers to collaborate toward production. (New York Times)

PANAMA SEEKS AGRICULTURAL LABORERS. The United Fruit Co. is advertising for 1,000 laborers to work on cocoa and hemp plantations in the Province of Bocas del Toro. The Company has a large drying plant for cocoa at Almirante and has planted abacá on banana plantations abandoned because of blight. Completion of defense projects and the suspension of work on the third set of the Canal locks have freed some laborers who may be used in agricultural pursuits. (New York Times)

PUERTO RICANS STUDY TO PRODUCE "SYNTHETIC BEEFSTEAK." The Puerto Rican Development Co., an organization whose aim is to use the Island's raw materials and develop new industries, has undertaken a solution of the malnutrition problem existing in Puerto Rico because of lack of meat. The Company learned that a continuous process had been developed by Seagram for manufacturing food yeast from blackstrap molasses by a process of fermentation, and it asked for a license to use the process in Puerto Rico. Twelve young Puerto Rican chemists and chemical engineers have come to this country to study the process in the Seagram Plant. They will be ready to return by next March and set up a full-scale plant on the Island. Dried food yeast, scientifically known as Torula utilis, contains food elements found in beef and is rich in the B-complex vitamins. Jamaica is said to have a similar plant using a process developed in England. (New York Journal of Commerce)